

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2617**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Mayes**

February 19, 2016

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An act to add Chapter 7.8 (commencing with Section 25685) to Division 15 of the Public Resources Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2617, as introduced, Mayes. Water efficiency measures.

The California Constitution requires that the water resources of the state be put to beneficial use to the fullest extent of which they are capable and that the waste or unreasonable use or unreasonable method of use of water be prevented. Existing law requires the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission), on a biennial basis, to conduct assessments and forecasts of all aspects of energy industry supply, production, transportation, delivery, and distribution. Existing law requires the Energy Commission, beginning November 1, 2003, and biennially thereafter, to adopt an integrated energy policy report containing an overview of major energy trends and issues facing the state.

This bill would require the Energy Commission to develop and solicit comments on a proposed report, in consultation with certain subject matter experts, by December 1, 2017, and, by July 1, 2018, to issue a final report that contains, among other things, the projected benefits of recommended voluntary water efficiency measures and an analysis of any unintended adverse environmental impacts that would result from various water efficiency measures.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 7.8 (commencing with Section 25685) is added to Division 15 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

CHAPTER 7.8. COST-EFFECTIVE WATER EFFICIENCY MEASURES

25685. It is the intent of the Legislature that the state identify and recommend the most cost-effective water efficiency measures that achieve the greatest reduction in water use and avoid any unintended adverse environmental impacts.

25686. As used in this chapter:

(a) “Highly efficient consumer appliances and landscape systems” includes, but is not limited to, irrigation systems, toilets, showers, and clothes washers.

(b) “Public entity” has the same meaning as defined in Section 375 of the Water Code.

(c) “Turfgrass” means any living grass that is used in fields or yards at a residential or commercial property, private park, athletic field, or public school.

(d) “Unintended adverse environmental impacts” include, but are not limited to, impacts on climate change, net effect on carbon sequestration, increased erosion, and impacts to stormwater runoff.

25687. By December 1, 2017, the commission, in consultation with persons that include, but are not limited to, subject matter experts at the University of California, the California State University, and local water districts, shall develop and solicit comments on a proposed report that contains all of the following:

(a) An analysis of the relative costs and benefits of incentives for various water efficiency measures, including, but not limited to, turfgrass removal and replacement with either drought-resistant turfgrass or artificial turf, investments in graywater infrastructure to supply water to outdoor landscapes, and rebates for highly efficient consumer appliances and landscape systems.

(b) An analysis of any unintended adverse environmental impacts that would result from the water efficiency measures considered pursuant to subdivision (a).

(c) The projected benefits of recommended voluntary water efficiency measures.

1     25688. By July 1, 2018, the commission shall issue a final  
2 report that contains all of the following:

3     (a) An identification of the most cost-effective incentives for  
4 water efficiency measures in terms of water use reduction per  
5 dollar spent.

6     (b) Recommendations to public entities to help them prioritize  
7 the most cost-effective solutions for granting incentives or rebates  
8 for water efficiency measures.

9     (c) An analysis of any unintended adverse environmental  
10 impacts that would result from the water efficiency measures  
11 considered pursuant to subdivision (a).

12     (d) The projected benefits of recommended voluntary water  
13 efficiency measures.

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